

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and apparatus for a hybrid variable rate pipe is described. In one embodiment of the invention, a computer implemented method comprises provisioning a non-BLSR protected layer 2/3 channel over a BLSR, provisioning a tunnel over the BLSR, and protecting the non-BLSR protected layer 2/3 channel between a first and second node of the BLSR with the tunnel.

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